

“Celebrating the role of basic science in the modern world”

## Celebration of the SHEroes at NRF-iThemba LABS



**Dr Julie Bolcaen**  
Post-doctoral researcher performing preclinical research in the field of radiobiology and nuclear medicine.

**Role/Research:**  
My research focuses on:

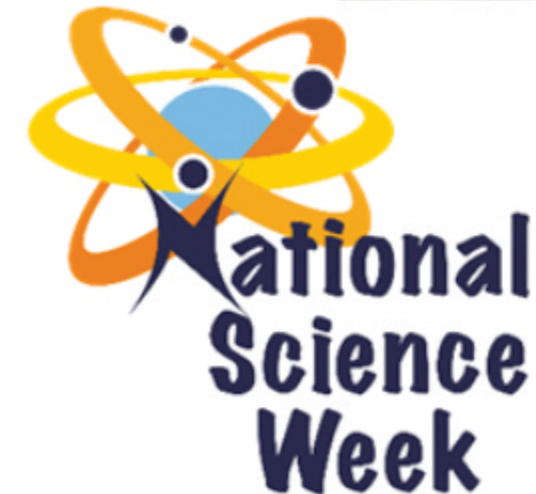
- Improving current cancer radiation treatment, including the treatment of high-grade brain tumours and cervical cancer
- Validating new radiopharmaceuticals to image or treat cancer for precision medicine

**When I am NOT doing science ...**  
You will most probably find me doing ONE of three things, namely hiking in the mountain, exercising in the gym or surfing in the ocean.

**WHY I love/enjoy/find myself drawn to SCIENCE ...**  
I am driven by the desire to provide personalized medicine, i.e. finding the right therapy for the right patient at the right time.



**Dr Julie Bolcaen is a researcher in the Radiobiology department at iThemba LABS**



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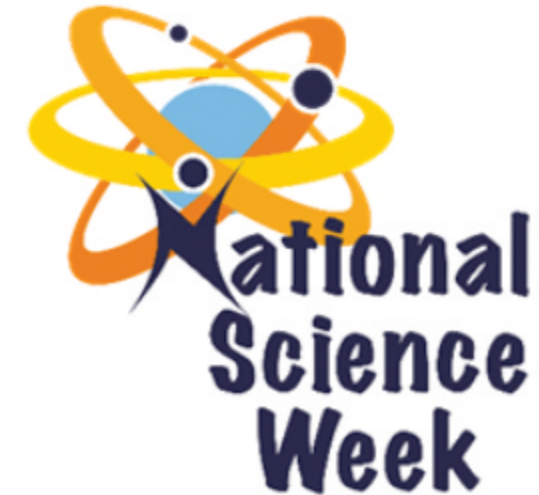
**#SASciWeek #NSW2022**

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## **Mr Ambrose Yaga is the Science Engagement Manager at iThemba LABS**

Passionate about imparting knowledge to other people and have been working with the youth for more than twenty years now. My job includes promoting science and technology to the youth and the public at large and has made me travel all around the country and even overseas in some instances. We have run science competitions, given out good prizes to winning schools to enhance science teaching in their classrooms; and have taken the participants to leadership and life skills building camps.



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**Xanthe Muller**  
Biomedical Technician

**Role/Research:**

Provide assistance with analyses, maintenance and operational management of the radiation biology laboratory as well student training and induction.

**When I am NOT doing science ...**

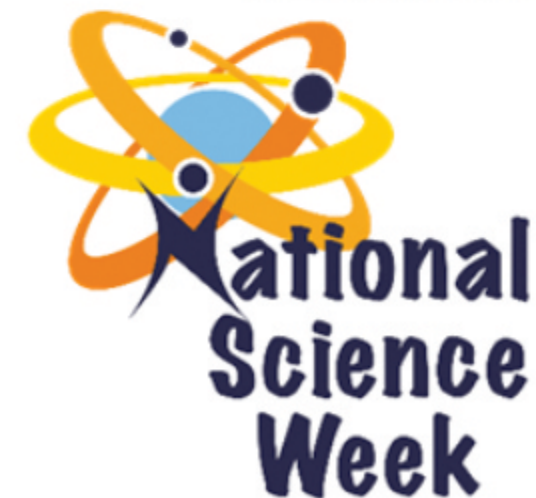
I enjoy hiking, trail running, reading and occasional sketching

**WHY I love/enjoy/find myself drawn to SCIENCE ...**

The lab is my “happy place”. I enjoy discovering and solving problems with regards to how the human body works – more specifically assessing the intricacies of cellular mechanisms. But I have to admit that I enjoy playing with all the fancy “toys” that I have access to!



## Dr Xanthe Muller is a Biomedical Technician at iThemba LABS



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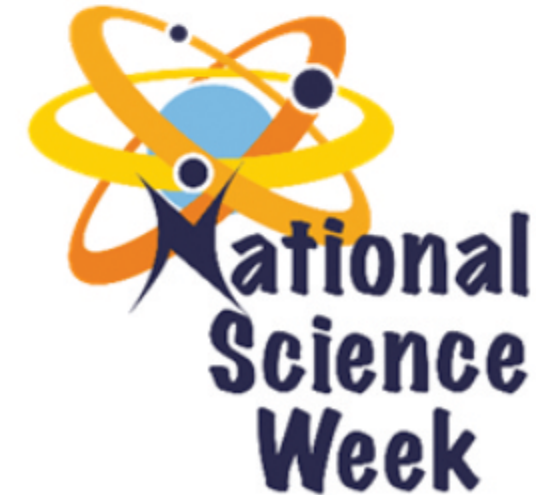
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### Dr Monique Engelbrecht is a researcher in the Radiobiology department at iThemba LABS

I graduated in 2017 from UWC with a Masters degree in Nanoscience. I have extensive experience and skills in cell culturing, microscopy, nanoscience and multiple radiobiology techniques and assays. Since the end of my PhD, I would like to be involved in other collaborations and co-supervising Master and PhD students that could potentially result in co-authorship in ongoing manuscripts.

I believe that I can make a valuable contribution to the medical bioscience field with my diligence, eagerness, dependability as well as good work ethic and enthusiasm.



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